From:	Simmons, Denise
To:	Phyllis
Subject:	Re: Objection to resolution on boycott of businesses doing business with Israel
Date:	Tuesday, April 17, 2018 6:58:41 PM

Dear Harvey and Phyllis Baumann,

Thank you for your email. So far, I have not yet seen an actual draft of the proposed resolution asking the City to cease purchasing HP equipment and supplies. I understand there's been a great deal of passionate discussion in the community about this matter – yet I must underscore that this will only appear on the City Council's April 23 agenda if one or more City Councilors sponsor it. We will not know if it is on the agenda until either a City Councilor publicly declares that they'll be sponsoring this (to my knowledge, this has not happened), or until the agenda is finalized by the Clerk's Office and posted online this Thursday evening around 5:30 pm. I can, at the very least, confirm that *I* am not a sponsor of such a resolution.

There have been numerous op-eds, emails, and social media posts condemning the City Council for rushing this to a vote without adequate opportunities for the public to weigh in, or even giving people a chance to read the resolution. Some people have condemned the City Council for seemingly being on the brink of passing this resolution, or for seemingly being on the brink of rejecting it. While I understand the passion behind this matter, I must clarify that we do not yet even have a resolution or policy order in front of us, there has been absolutely no debate about this amongst the City Councilors, and the City Council will not have an opportunity to discuss this amongst ourselves unless and until a resolution is sponsored by at least one of us and introduced at a public meeting. At this point, I am not yet certain if such a resolution will be introduced or not.

I appreciate your reaching out and sharing your views on this. I am currently reading up on this issue to be better informed, I am reviewing all the emails and letters coming in about this issue, and I am reaching out to our representatives in Congress to seek their input on an issue that is more international than municipal in scope. Should this matter end up on before the City Council – either on April 23 or at a later date – I will look forward to engaging in a thoughtful discussion and debate with my colleagues on the Council and then seeing how to best resolve this matter in a way that allows everyone to feel they have had a fair chance to be heard. Thank you.

E. Denise Simmons

From: Phyllis <phyllisctbaumann@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 9:48 AM
To: McGovern, Marc; jdeverereux@cambridgema.gov; Carlone, Dennis; Kelley, Craig; Mallon, Alanna; Siddiqui, Sumbul; Simmons, Denise; Toomey, Tim; Zondervan, Quinton
Subject: Objection to resolution on boycott of businesses doing business with Israel

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

We wanted to express our strong opposition to the resolution to boycott businesses doing

business with Israel. Unfortunately, we will be out of town and unable to attend the Monday city council meeting in person. We cannot express how upsetting such a proposal is to us long term Cambridge residents. I would feel extremely uncomfortable living in a city that enacted such a proposal, feeling that I was surrounded by hidden, and not so hidden, hostility.

What is most upsetting about this proposal is that it singles out Israel as if it is the only nation that has policies to which people might object. Why are we not proposing similar action against all those other nations that carry out policies significantly worse than Israel's? How about China? Saudi Arabia? Qatar? UAE? Myanmar? Or a host of other countries where we might object to policies or actions?

It is the singling out of Israel that makes one question the motives behind the proposal, as if Israel offered nothing positive to the world despite its many achievements in medicine, humanitarian aid, and scientific development among many other areas. Given the lessons of history, one must question the motives behind a resolution that singles out a Jewish country for punishment. Would we like our country to be judged only by those policies with which we disagree and not on our overall achievement? One should not forget that Israel is the only democracy in the middle east. In particular, it has a functioning judiciary much like our own which has been open to redress the grievances against the government, unlike any other country in the middle east. And, indeed, the Israeli judiciary has taken many decisions against its government. Why are we singling out Israel and none of the other more seriously flawed regimes, policies and actions ?

Thank you for your consideration of this letter and thank you for your work on the city council.

Sincerely,

Harvey and Phyllis Baumann
19 Bay Street
Cambridge, MA 02139